

a clinical entity, acute or chronic, of unknown etiology and that it has the tendency to subside after many months during which remissions and exacerbations may have been experienced. However, what is of particular interest to the subject in hand, is the precedent observation of myoclonus in acute infectious disease, viz.: in Dubini's disease, otherwise known as *electrical chorea*. The meager epidemiology of this affection records a 90% fatality. First described in 1845 in reference to cases which occurred in malarial districts of Italy, it was for a time thought to be of paludal origin. Its etiology, however, has remained obscure. So much as is known of the pathology of electrical chorea comprises "pulmonary and splenic congestion, inflammation of the meninges, increase of cerebro-spinal fluid, cerebral congestion especially at the base and softened foci in the cortex and great ganglia (Church and Peterson).⁷ The brief clinical descriptions available refer to rythmical movements, as if from an electric shock, in the extremities and rarely in the head and face. Fever may be present. Pain in the head and neck may be an early symptom. Sensibility is not greatly affected but hypersensitiveness may easily be evoked and this exalts the motor phenomena. Epileptiform attacks may occur. In some cases paralysis may supervene and toward the end of the attack atrophy of muscles may be apparent (Church and Peterson; McCarthy⁸). The foregoing suggests the interesting possibility that infectious electrical chorea is really acute poliomyelitis with myoclonus as a dominant feature. The further study of motor phenomena which may appear early in acute poliomyelitis seems indicated. While doubtless in no way pathognomonic, such manifestations may prove a clinical aid at a time when diagnostic difficulty is the rule.

References.

1. Mathers. Some Bacteriologic Observations on Epidemic Poliomyelitis. Jour. A. M. A., Sept. 30, 1916.
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3. Nuzum and Herzog. Experimental Studies in the Etiology of Acute Epidemic Poliomyelitis. Jour. A. M. A., Oct. 21, 1916.
4. Dixon. Correspondence. Jour. A. M. A., Nov. 4, 1916, page 1386.
5. Nuzum. Bacteriological Findings in Poliomyelitis. Jour. A. M. A., Nov. 11, 1916.
6. Colliver. A New Preparalytic Symptom of Poliomyelitis. Jour. A. M. A., March 15, 1913.
7. Church and Peterson. Nervous and Mental Diseases, 5th Edition, 1905, page 549.
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WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT
Office of the Department Surgeon

San Francisco, Cal.

April 19, 1917.

Dr. Sol Hyman,
Editor, California State Journal of Medicine,
Butler Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Doctor:

In anticipation of the early legislation by Congress to call five hundred thousand men at once

and five hundred thousand more within the year into active training and service, and, in view of the necessity for the immediate enrollment of a large number of the younger medical men of the country in the Medical Reserve Corps for service with these troops as regimental surgeons and assistants, ambulance companies, field hospitals, etc., I would appreciate any publicity you may be able to give in your columns relating to this matter. Information and all necessary blanks can be obtained from me either at the Department Surgeon's Office or at the Letterman General Hospital.

Very truly yours,

Signed: GUY L. EDIE,
Colonel, Medical Corps,
Department Surgeon.

SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES FOR COCAIN WITHDRAWN FROM FEDERAL REGISTRATION.

On page 129, Department of Pharmacy and Chemistry, attention was called to the decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, holding that synthetic substitutes for cocain and eucaïn did not come under the jurisdiction of the Harrison Act.

Below we print the letter of instructions of the Treasury Department in conformity with this decision:

B.C.K. TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue,
Washington.

March 28, 1917.

M-n. Mim. No. 1497. Suspending enforcement
T. D. 2194, relating to synthetic substitutes for
cocain.

To the Collectors Internal Revenue, Revenue
Agents, and Others Concerned:

Referring to T. D. 2194, holding that any synthetic substitute for cocain, alpha or beta eucaïn, or their salts or derivatives, comes within the provisions of the Act of December 17, 1914, and that persons using or having in their possession any such synthetic substitute are required to register and obtain such substitutes upon official order forms and otherwise conform to this act, this office has decided to suspend the enforcement of the ruling of April 26, 1915, until you are otherwise advised.

This action is taken in view of the decisions of the U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York, of June 28, 1915, and of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, of February 21, 1916, holding that these synthetic substitutes did not come within the provisions of section 1 of the act.

Therefore, you are directed to notify all registered persons in your district or others who may be affected by T. D. 2194 of the suspension of this ruling.

Approved:

W. G. McADOO,
Secretary.

W. H. OSBORN,
Commissioner.